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the Metcalfe Society
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The MECCA NEWS

Editor: Peter Dobson



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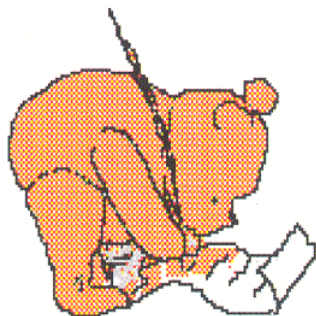
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FROM THE EDITOR



This issue has a

number of articles which cover life in the dales and military service (courtesy of Iain Swinnerton well known for his military knowledge) which I hope will give you some ideas to search out those family ancestors..

I have taken the opportunity to reprint an article which appeared in April 1991 (MN33) which

gives details of the distribution of the Clan name in Wensleydale in the early 17th century - a time from when information is scarce but where family groupings were much more compact giving the opportunity to identify early antecedents. The earlier records could provide information on locations which might be used to follow families forward instead of trying to identify those elusive individuals backwards.

There is also an article on the validity and accuracy of our database information. It may be that incorrect information has been accepted as being bona fide as it appeared in a printed format rather than seeking other corroboration. It is often easier to accept a piece of information because it seems to fit rather than seek other confirmation or note that the details may be suspect and look for a resolution from another direction. Sometimes

easier said than done!

This will be our 30th Birthday and a great opportunity to meet up with your fellow Metcalfe relatives and researchers. As the nature of family history societies is changing and will do so even more so in the near future see how your Society is looking to the future whilst honouring the past.

Why not join us in Wensleydale to celebrate our Birthday?

I look forward to seeing you there!



UPDATE

Metcalfe's Farm, Reeth,
Swaledale after renovation.
June 2010.

See Mecca News 89 Back page.

Living at the premises in 1881 may well have been William and Dorothy Metcalfe with a family of five youngsters all under ten years of age.

**YOU MAY HAVE MISSED
THE FIRST MUSTER**



**BUT HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO
ATTEND THE
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE METCALFE SOCIETY**

30 YEARS ON

The Next Generation

**ANNUAL AGM
& MUSTER**

at

**The Dales Countryside Museum
Hawes Wensleydale**

on Saturday 9 October 2010

**Guest Speaker - Lady Mary Teviot President of
the Federation of Family History Societies**

See enclosed booking form with this issue

The Indian Judge

It was an involved process to be admitted into the East India Company service. Each candidate had to provide character references - not just ask a friend - they had to go and live with various people for several months at a time.

Henry Cranstoun Metcalfe the second of eight sons of Thomas & Christiana Metcalfe was born on the 20th September 1810 and baptised on the 25th April 1811 at St Georges Bloomsbury. Four of Henry's brothers died in India (Howe, Edmund, Douglas and Ernest) whilst Thomas the eldest had a son die there. Another - Frederick died unmarried and the last Charles became a Captain in the Royal Navy.

To gain his character references for the Company's application process Henry lived in Edinburgh with a C H Terrot from October 1826 to July 1827 then from June to December 1828 with a J M Anderson curate of St Georges Kemp Town Brighton and finally with a John Brass at Theobolds Green Waltham Cross from Christmas to 1828 to March 1829. Typical of the testimony he received were "*He conducts himself with a practiced propriety*" another was "*satisfied with the regularity and correctness of his moral conduct*". If the parents of these young men were having to pay for the accommodation they were not going to get a bad reference were they?

On the 13th March 1829 Henry Cranstoun Metcalfe was nominated as a writer of the East India Company, with his nomination being approved on the 30th April 1829. He was admitted into Haileybury, the East India Company's College where candidates for their civil service were trained. One question asked of candidates was were they aware that if their nominations had been obtained by improper means they would be ineligible for any appointment whilst another asked if they knew that they would be expelled for misbehaviour. Henry (not unexpectedly) replied yes to both questions. By the 26th June 1833 he was in India.

On the 22nd November 1835 Henry described as of "full age married Madeline Catania by licence. She was "Not of full age" They both lived at Jessore. Their son Henry How was born 20 August 1836 and was baptised at the same time as his sister Emily Millicent, who was born in 1839. A second son Douglas was born 30th May 1847 with another daughter Jane born 21 September 1856. .

On the 14th October 1840 whilst Henry was Officiating Magistrate of Rungpore there was an investigation into "*certain imputations against him*".

However on the 28th October 1840, a report was produced concerning "*deductions of deputation allowances*" which stated they were proved to have been in conformity to the established rule.

On the 12th July 1848 he was again brought to the attention of the Board of Directors as a retrenchment of deductions was improperly made from his salary. On the 3rd January 1851 Mr Ricketts the Commissioner of Chitagong complained about Henry's conduct, and he was duly admonished for his laxity.

On 2nd July 1856 Judge Metcalfe presented a full impartial inquiry into the charges of corruption and abuse of authority against a long-standing Indian employee. He recommended that the person should be retired on a pension and it was accepted. Henry presented another report into the conduct of another Indian employee to the Board of Directors. In this case he recommended that the person be dismissed from the service of the East India Company as he has instigated a case to pass one man's wife off as the wife of another. This was accepted. .

Henry Cranstoun Metcalfe retired on the 1st of May 1860 and returned to England. On 17 June 1862 his son Douglas Ernest applied to join the Indian Army. In his application he stated that his father had served 30 years as Magistrate, Collector and Judge. Douglas was refused as being too old - he was 15 years of age.

Between returning to England and making his will in 1881 Henry's wife and son Douglas had died. He was living at Cornwall Residence Regents Park with his second wife Ann Madeline Hall Parne Metcalfe. In the will he left her property however in a codicil dated 1884 he revised his will and excluded her. In a second codicil dated 1888 he was living in Kemp Town Brighton when he revised his will yet again by making void all payments to Ann, furthermore he requested he be buried with his first wife and son Douglas and daughter Louisa in Kensal Green cemetery. Other children mentioned in his will were Julia Cranstoun Rainsford; Madeline Deiaunay Morgan; Bessie Blackstone and a son Frederick whose mother was Ann.

This article was written using the records of the Board of the East India Company and the will of Henry Cranstoun Metcalfe. **George Buxton M3**

.....
: *"The mails in this country are very irregular being all carried by native fellows who* :
: *are very often killed and eaten by tigers and other wild beasts without respect* :
: *from whom the letters are sent or where going."* :
:

: From a letter regarding the death of Captain Studholm Henry Metcalfe sent by Lt Ker :
: 5 November 1839. India Office European Manuscripts Private Papers C683. :
:

The main conclusions were that the future focus would be on improved communications with members and those interested in family history and investigation of new projects/methods to secure further Metcalfe information. A paper outlining a possible strategy for the latter will be discussed at the July Committee meeting and details will be circulated in due course.



*Committee members at the Countryside Museum:
L-R (back) Martin Metcalfe, Margaret Hodgson, David Lambert, Brian
Metcalfe, David Metcalfe; (front) Jose Hopper, Liz Waller,
Carol Herbert and Peter Dobson.
Lesley Longworth and Charles Metcalfe were unable to attend.*

As usual, this was an enjoyable day, with the sunny weather and plenty of people attending the Fair as a whole.

The Society was represented by **Brian Metcalfe M1554, David Metcalfe M46 and Margaret Hodgson**. Plenty of interest was shown in our three tables, with David being kept busy with enquiries about possible links with the records on the computer database.

Many leaflets were given out, with one new member joining on the day and another since. Sales were quite brisk, with the new certificate binders being of particular interest.

During the course of the day we welcomed several members with interesting stories of their current research.

Margaret Hodgson M515

NEW!!

THE METCALFE SOCIETY TERMS & CONDITIONS

To bring the Society into line with current privacy and data protection laws, as well as other society's practices, we have set up a single Authorisation Preference page at <http://www.metcalfes-online.co.uk/members/authorisation.php>. Here, you can notify The Society how you would like us to handle your contact information and any research data

submitted to The Society. The authorisations cover 3 points:

1. Publication of contact information in our Birth Brief Booklet available to other members.
2. Forwarding of contact details to other members/ex-members/non-members
3. Usage rights for genealogy and other researched data submitted to The Society

For existing members it has been assumed that you agree to all points unless you have previously requested otherwise. You can check your current settings on the 'Check Your MMF Record' link in the members area at www.metcalfes-online.co.uk/members.

If you do not have internet access and would like a hard-copy of the authorisation form, or would like to verify your current authorisation settings, please write to Carol Herbert, The Metcalfe Society, 22 Webster Crescent, Kimberworth, Rotherham S61 2BP, UK. Please include a stamped addressed envelope for our reply.



CORRECTION:

To all of you with keen eyesight well done for spotting
April's deliberate mistake!

The picture on the back cover was not of course of Nappa Hall as the
caption said but of Bolton Castle. No excuses.

Still it's a nice photo. Perhaps we can change the caption to
Wensleydale Winter 2010!

Well spotted David Metcalfe M46, Charles Metcalfe M305,
Mary Metcalfe M1, Nigel Metcalfe M100 and Brian Metcalfe M1554
amongst others.

Perhaps we were getting it wrong

David Romano M1787 writes: *"I have an article about expected and rather ordinary Metcalfes failing to turn up. It describes our disappointments in the churchyards of Swaledale and the BMD columns of the Bradford Observer. It has an ulterior and selfish motive - to question the accuracy of the Metcalfe Society database at one point, throw in a possible alternative line and wait for a response."*

We found my wife Joan's first Metcalfe link in the Eastbrook Centenary Souvenir book. Eastbrook Chapel, built on Leeds Road, Bradford, when the Wesleyan Kirkgate Chapel could no longer cope with the demands made on it, was opened for public worship in September 1825. When, in its turn, Eastbrook Chapel became unsuitable, it was replaced by Eastbrook Hall, completed by early 1904. In 1925 the Centenary Souvenir book was published and pages 78 to 80 of chapter VIII (Eastbrook Pews and Families) give a biography of Joan's great-grandfather A. E. Yeadon. The final paragraph of those pages reads 'Mrs. A. E. Yeadon's association with Eastbrook and Methodism go back to the earliest days, for her great-grandmother was a Mrs. Tattersall (formerly Anne Metcalf), a sister of Christopher Pratt's mother. Leonard Metcalf (brother of Anne Metcalf) assisted in the building of Eastbrook Chapel in 1825....'

Elsewhere in the same book and the same chapter, we learnt that Christopher Pratt's mother was Agnes Metcalf, that she and her six youngest children had come to Bradford from Swaledale in 1830 and that Agnes' brother (so Christopher's uncle) Leonard took a pew from the 1825 opening of Eastbrook Chapel, which was later shared by Agnes and her family.

All that information, confidently expressed, seemed unequivocal. And if Joan's great-grandmother was Mrs. A. E. Yeadon (documented, so true) and if Mrs. A. E. Yeadon's great-grandmother was a Mrs. Tattersall (formerly Anne Metcalf), then Anne Metcalf was Joan's great-great-great-great-grandmother.

A few days in Swaledale was a must. At Reeth Museum we learnt about the Metcalfe Society. And the Metcalfe Society was a must. Joan's birth brief confirmed everything we thought we'd understood from the Eastbrook Centenary Souvenir book. We borrowed Yesterday our Ancestry (written by Leonard Webster Pratt, one of Christopher Pratt's grandsons) and the story again was the same - Anne, Leonard and Agnes Metcalf were three siblings, among many.

With the help of the Metcalfe Society records (and many generous members) we could now go backwards to Anne's - and Agnes' and Leonard's - parents (Thomas Metcalf and Annas Binks), to her grandfather (Richard Metcalf), and to her great-grandparents (Anthony Metcalf and Ann Wharton) – Joan's 7xgreat-grandparents, who married in 1718.

It was too good to be true. It was also too easy, and therefore too tempting to accept without question. Our problem is that we've been quite unable to find any records of Anne Metcalf apart from anecdotes. We believe no church record of her birth has been found. We can trace no record of her marriage to a Tattersall, nor of her death. For Leonard and Agnes the documentation is comprehensive. For Anne there's nothing. And there's another, logistical problem. Mrs. A. E. Yeadon is Joan's great-grandmother. If Anne Metcalf is Mrs. Yeadon's great-grandmother, who comes between Anne Metcalf and Mrs. Yeadon?

Mrs. Yeadon's parents are William and Lucy Tattersall – no doubts; we have certificates, census records, press cuttings and hand-written entries in the front of the family bible, even an identified photograph. William Tattersall's parents are John and Elizabeth Tattersall - again, no doubts; we have census records and secure inferences from post-1837 official records. But John was born in 1807 in Sowerby. If his mother was Anne Metcalf who married a Tattersall, she must have left Swaledale, perhaps accompanied brother Leonard to Bradford, met the Tattersall without a Christian name, started a family by 1807 in Sowerby, then settled in Bradford – possible, but it doesn't seem likely. And there's a child-bearing problem. Anne's proposed parents, Thomas Metcalfe and Annas Binks, had a pretty tight (and confirmed) procreative timetable. It's difficult to see where Anne could have been squeezed in (or out).

And, finally, there's the problem of Thomas Metcalf's will of 1828, which leaves money to 'my two daughters....Annas (Agnes) Pratt and Nanny Metcalf'. Nanny might be Anne, but why Metcalf, why not Tattersall? Tattersall might have died and Nanny might have re-married (a Metcalf). Or she might have been Tattersall's widow and reverted to her maiden name when he died. Or perhaps we were getting it wrong.

The anecdotal sources for Anne Metcalf are the Eastbrook Centenary Souvenir book, Yesterday our Ancestry and the Metcalfe Society data and birth briefs. We now suspect that Yesterday our Ancestry re-cycled the Centenary book information and that the Metcalfe Society is re-cycling both books.

Here's our alternative hypothesis. The only Tattersall-Metcalf marriage we can find for the right decade or two is the one between John Tattersall (Joan's confirmed 3xgreat-grandfather) and Elizabeth Metcalf. And we think it's there that the Metcalf link lies – not with Anne in the previous generation. We think Anne is a figment. And we think that Elizabeth is a daughter of Reuben Metcalf, another of Thomas' children who settled in Bradford.

The Eastbrook Centenary book was published 117 years after John Tattersall was born, 93 years after his marriage to Elizabeth – plenty of time to allow memories to become muddled.

We're happy that Joan still has a Metcalf link. We're not sorry to give up trying to explain Anne's existence with increasingly unlikely stories – with wishful thinking. And we hope that someone out there can tell us we're right – or even wrong.

Footnote: To avoid possible confusion and to confirm we're discussing the same line, we've kept the surname spelling as Metcalf, as used in the Eastbrook book.

Our Archivist Brian Metcalfe has responded as follows:-

"I'm afraid that we are still in the dark about Ann, whom we are led to believe was Leonard's sister. We have no proof of her existence, beyond the information gleaned from "Yesterday Our Ancestry", the book which you borrowed. I have reread the section dealing with her, in case I had missed a vital clue which would unravel the mystery, but to no avail. I can only reach the same conclusion as yourselves, which is that time has clouded the memories of those involved.

I can clarify one point in your hypothesis. Elizabeth Mte who married John Tattersall is not the daughter of Reuben Mte. That Elizabeth married George Appleton 5/6/1831 in Richmond. He had died by 1835 & Elizabeth then married William Bradbury. I can confirm the marriage of Elizabeth Mte & John Tattersall 8/9/1832 Bradford. Elizabeth died 3Q 1872 in Bradford, aged 67. John died 3Q 1889 also in Bradford, aged 83. You say that John was bc1807 in Sowerby. I have not found confirmation of this, but it is possible that it was Sowerby Bridge, on the outskirts of Halifax & much closer to Bradford than Sowerby, nr Thirsk.

I have not been able to link Elizabeth Mte to any parents, so it would appear to be the end of the line for Joan's ancestry. I'm sorry that I am unable to resolve your problem. The only thought that comes to mind, is the old saying that "truth is often stranger than fiction". Like so many of us, you can only hope that one day someone will turn up with a solution to it all. I will certainly let you know if they do."

Chairman's Jottings David Lambert M11

We are celebrating this year our 30th anniversary, no mean feat.

Not all One Name Societies have survived that long. We are lucky that there clearly is a well rooted and seemingly inherent desire among Metcalf(e)s to discover more about their family and links with the past and the Dales in particular. Every year a steady number of 'ancestor-seekers' join us. True we 'lose' a number too but year in, year out we have for the last 10 years kept a fairly constant number of members.

A celebration is a good time to reflect on what has been achieved and what needs to be done. Thinking back I think there are 3 distinct stages in the development of the society. When I was aged 31 I joined the Society as an original member having been contacted by our founders Mary Metcalfe and Vera Adams and invited to do so. Others who joined me and who are still in the society include Nina Benson, my cousin David Metcalfe and George Buxton. I had discovered from the start that I had a common link to Helen Offer and David and it was that link that has kept me in the Society. They had knowledge which I did not!

The society during the first 10 years commenced its great index stored then in 'shoe boxes'. It was a fundamental project since it enhanced the ability to link members of the same family to one another, just as I had luckily been able to do. Birth brief booklets followed and Lists. Indexes of English Censuses and Births, Marriages and Deaths compiled by Patrick Malham and colleagues spread the flow of information and knowledge. We registered as a charity and adopted a constitution which has certainly survived the passage of time with a minimum of amendment, due to the efforts of our late chairman John Holden, who brought a great depth of knowledge to those lucky enough to be linked to his line!

The next stage I think (with IBM's indirect help) saw the society embracing computer technology. Charles Metcalfe and Diane Howarth, both IBM employees, were our leading lights and brought to the Society the ability to cope with the new technology and to put our burgeoning indexes onto a database. This in turn enabled us to discard the card indexes and shoe boxes: with some sadness it must be admitted. We saved a few as an example for future members to see.

We entered the computer age a good deal earlier than many other societies. This enhanced our ability to store and process information quicker, although it depended then, as it still does, upon a tiny band of very few dedicated and knowledgeable members to do this. As the information databases became larger so did the membership. Our Index grew and grew and our Lists became more voluminous. We embarked on more projects such as the Wills index and later the transcription scheme. We also in the second decade of existence decided to do something almost unthinkable; we decided to publish our magnificent Book on the Metcalfe Clan, thanks to the expertise of Warwick Metcalfe and his small editorial team. The society was

brave enough to agree that we could embark upon the task which after (from memory) about 3 years came to a most successful conclusion. It sold out its first edition and thereby covered its costs. The second edition has continued to sell well as might be expected of such a first rate work! There are still some available!

The third most recent phase, probably the last 8 years, has seen the growth of our use of the Internet, which itself has probably encouraged more people worldwide to trace their roots than anything else. Carol Herbert has singlehanded done so much for us. We have won Web Awards for our Website for example and she has arranged for our old computer database to be converted into a more modern format. We aspired to be able to put our records online for members and have now achieved this. This is a really good achievement in my opinion. We appreciate that not everyone has a computer or a connection to the internet and have done our best to continue to provide a similar service to members via different other traditional routes.

We have undertaken some DNA testing or rather certain members have and we hope to encourage more of you to participate. We have it in mind to target certain lines to see if we can establish that the links are correct and to see if there are others as yet unascertained through documents. We are moving into another way of checking relationships. I refer to the Web Award above and of course must not neglect, in this brief summary of the Society over 30 years, our Award winning Mecca News, especially as it has been edited for 50% of its existence by our current editor, Peter Dobson. This is the main contact point available to all members and has deservedly been commended for its content and appearance. As we have shown over the years Metcalf(e)s are not afraid of changes, although maybe at times, we are hesitant at making the changes !

None of the above could have occurred without your backing and support, together with that of the committee members. How fortunate we have been to have such an enthusiastic team serving us on the committee during the Society's lifetime. I would like to thank them all for their endeavours. There is insufficient room to name everyone more is the pity.

We approach as you read this that day in the year when we 'muster' as a society just as we have done for 29 years. Please complete the form to signify your attendance as quickly as possible. Early registration does help us! Our AGM will take place in the morning . I am delighted that Lady Teviot, the President of The Federation of Family History Societies, has agreed to visit us again. She did so when we celebrated our 21 st birthday and has always shown interest in our endeavours and achievements. This year we have also agreed to accept the invitation of the Upper Dales Museum to participate, along with others, in a two week exhibition at Leyburn on the theme of illustrating how, when, why and where families left the Dales. If any of you is interested in providing some photographs, memorabilia and stories of Metcalfes who left the upper Dales please let us know as we would like to

include it in our exhibit, which will be on view for a fortnight culminating with out Muster weekend.

We do need more committed members who can give us some of their time to serve on the committee. My annual plea but please do heed it. We need new blood on the committee, especially a secretary. After we have achieved so much, I would not like to see the society decline for lack of a few committee members.

I have been advised by Charles Metcalfe that he has decided he would like to step down as President, although I am pleased to say he will still write articles and carry out small projects for the society. He has been a tower of strength and one of the key members of the society through out his period of membership. I am glad we are not quite losing his input entirely and would like to pay tribute to him for all he has done for us.

Finally, I have informed the committee that I have decided to step down as your chairman at this year's AGM, so these will be my final jottings! I feel that as we enter the fourth decade of the Society, it will be good for the Society to have a new chairman, with new ideas and a different approach to the way we run our affairs. I have tried my best to ensure that the Society has always kept up to date and hope that I leave the committee so that the Society is 'fit for the future'. Time will tell. So thank you for allowing me to be your chairman, which is something I will always remember with, fondness and pleasure. Good luck to my successor. I hope to see as many of you at the Muster as possible. Lets try to make it over a 100 attendees !

As a new member and re-reading no 87 April (2009) issue of the Mecca News I felt compelled to write and to put keys to paper when you mentioned our weather out here in Australia. As an ex-pat of 42 years and born and bred in the North of England my memory of the very cold winter of 1947 when the local men workers from the Gas works walked across the Peak Forest Canal which was frozen solid at the time and made a convenient short cut.

This was followed by a very hot **your e-mails and letters** summer in 1948 and ice cream sales from Wall's Ice Cream showed a profit. Now all these years later and at the other end of the spectrum we live in the driest state on the driest continent in the world.

In 1982 fires wreaked havoc in Victoria and the Adelaide Hills (Ash Wednesday) where we lived at the time with the fire coming towards us on three fronts at the time when miraculously the wind changed direction. Good for us but unlucky for others. Lives were lost along with numerous houses and livestock.

We now live in the North of Adelaide in the Southern Flinders Range while after an extremely hot summer we have not suffered the fate of the towns of Kinglake and Marysville in Victoria with disastrous results. We all live on a knife's edge in the summer with the temperature reaching 45 degrees. Before the summer heat takes hold we go through the process of gathering prize possessions (important documents, photos etc) and pack them away in a handy case and when and if the catastrophic weather conditions are reported we get ready to evacuate as to stay and try to fight the might of an Australian bush fire is too frightening to contemplate but we do learn to live with it. **Jean Barnett M1831**

Military Records

This article "Searching for Swinnerton Soldiers" first appeared in The Swinnerton Saga in December 2009 and is reproduced by kind permission of Iain Swinnerton Editor of the Swinnerton Family History Society.

I spend a lot of time tracing pre-1913 servicemen in all three services in my professional capacity mostly for people living in the former colonies such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India and the United States whose ancestor served in one of those countries, liked the place and decided to stay there when his time was up. The enlistment may have been any time from King George III to King George V and his records could take in one of the many campaigns which established the British Empire.

However, we now have at least three generations of whom the great majority has never done any form of military service or had any contact with anyone who has. World War II ended in 1945 and the last National Serviceman left the army in 1961. Thus the only people left with any contact with the military today are the friends and relatives of the members of our small modern army. As a result the general public is not familiar with military matters except for what they see on television. Army nomenclature, the meaning of the initials used for units and personnel (my wife would tell you, after many years of listening to conversations, that the army usually spoke in initials!), and the general organisation and jargon are a closed book to them. Consequently, when they attempt to use military records to help them in their search for their ancestor, they are confronted with a host of unfamiliar names and terms. The present day textbooks on tracing army ancestry all assume the reader has knowledge of these but, as a well-known author of books on World War I records found when he attempted his first book, lack of understanding of the basic organisation, history and traditions of the army can be a severe handicap.



There is a myth prevalent in some quarters that you can only trace a military ancestor if he was an officer. That is not so: it is sometimes slightly easier to trace an officer but, providing you know which regiment he was in, or can find out, it is perfectly possible to trace an ordinary soldier back to the middle 1700's.

The documents giving details of regular soldier's careers during the 19th and early 20th centuries until the end of the First World War are held at The National Archives, Kew (TNA). The principal records are the soldier's Discharge Papers for those

men discharged with a pension before 1883 (after this date all soldiers' records are included whether they were pensioned or not). Most of the papers for those discharged without a pension before 1883 were destroyed by fire many years ago. So - to find the records of a soldier who left the army before this date, I have to search for his discharge.

The records are grouped by date - those for 1760 -1854 are now on the TNA's website as are the two supplementary series consisting of miss-sorts or for the surprising number of men who joined the army under a false name and whose true identity was either declared by the soldier at a later date or was later discovered. Despite this, you will still find many records in the ordinary series which include an affidavit made by the soldier giving his proper name. These supplementary series cover 1843 -1913. Happily for us these are all indexed alphabetically for the whole of the army so it is easy to pick up the Swinbertons very quickly.



Other periods are not so easy - from 1855 -1872 they are arranged alphabetically by regiment and from 1873 - 1882 alphabetically within the arm of service, i.e. cavalry, infantry, artillery and corps. For the period 1855 -1882, therefore, I need to know whether he served in the Cavalry, Infantry, Artillery, Engineers etc. and, from 1855 -1872 his regiment because, as well as the Guards and Household Cavalry, there were in that period 28 Cavalry Regiments and over 100 Infantry Regiments. It would be a mammoth task to search them all! From 1883 -1913 they are again listed alphabetically for the whole of the army.

Digitisation is proceeding apace and TNA hope to have them all on their website by the end of 2010. The documents should include his attestation papers - the forms he completed when he joined the army. These give his place of birth, age on joining, trade or occupation before joining, and a physical description. One always has to remember though that these personal details are only what he told the recruiting officer. It does worry me that family historians are inclined to accept any so-called official document such as birth, marriage and death certificates, entries in parish registers et al, as gospel whereas, in fact, they are only what one person told another.

The documents will also give details of his promotions or demotions, conduct, medals awarded, illnesses, and places where he served. Finally, they tell you the place and date of his discharge and usually an address where he intended to live so that he could be paid his pension. In later docu-

ments, you will often find details of next of kin and brothers and sisters and a medical history. You will certainly find his signature, if he was literate, often several times. However, many soldiers weren't and this was still true with some men called up in the 50's and 60's for National Service.

Not all the records are complete by any means and the Medal Rolls for various campaigns starting with Waterloo and including campaigns in India, Africa, New Zealand and China can be useful in filling in gaps.

Another very useful set of records are the Regimental and Depot Description Books. These were compiled on enlistment and commence in about 1825 following a number of scandals about fraudulent enlistment - men joining and then quickly deserting and joining another regiment to get another bounty. They give personal details and were extremely useful for providing information to the police if a man deserted. It was from this date that soldiers were first given personal numbers but these were regimental numbers and if a man transferred to another regiment, a not-infrequent occurrence, he would be given a new number. The other main records are the Pay Lists and Muster Rolls which sometimes, particularly for those soldiers who were not discharged to pension because they took an early discharge or died in service, are the only source of information about a soldier before 1883.

Pensions were awarded either on medical grounds or for long service. All soldiers admitted to pension were, and still are, Chelsea Pensioners but only a very small minority actually lived, or live, in Chelsea Hospital. These are the splendid old men in their scarlet coats you see at military ceremonies. The great majority lived, and still do, in their own homes, in the UK or overseas. Before 1883, their pensions were paid by District Staff Officers. The payments are all listed in the staff officers returns and can be very useful in following the moves of pensioners to different areas and the date of death if this is not known.

Records after 1920 are still confidential, remain with the Ministry of Defence and are only available to the serviceman himself or his next of kin. The exception to this is the Army List of officers, published since 1754 up to the present day, which is available on open access.

Stephen Medcalf born Warwick, Warwickshire. Served in 35th Foot Regiment; 69th Foot Regiment. Discharged aged 35. 1792
National Archives WO 97/526/30.

Stephen Metcalf (alias Medcalf) served in 35th Foot Regiment; Hull Invalids. Discharged after 22 years service. 1797.
National Archives WO 121/146/339. Film Image 818.

Books

NEW! 'Researching Scottish Family History', by Chris Paton;
ISBN 978 1 906280 22 2; 120 pages; Price £7.95.

NEW SERIES - Vital Records for Family Historians:
'Birth and Baptism Records for Family Historians' by Stuart Raymond;
ISBN 978 1 906280 24 6; 32 pages; Price £4.50.

'Marriage Records for Family Historians' by Stuart Raymond;
ISBN 978 1 906280 23 9; 32 pages; Price £4.50.

New Edition: 'Scottish Family History on the Web (Third Edition 2010)'
by Stuart Raymond; ISBN 978 1 906280 21 5; 96 pages; Price £7.95.

From:- Sales and Distribution,
The Family History Partnership LLP,
www.thefamilyhistorypartnership.com ☎ 01706 825557.

Pitfalls & Possibilities in Family History Research by Pauline M Litton.
ISBN: 978-0-9553450-1-2. 290 pages, illustrated. Price £11.99 .

By post £13.75 UK; £16.75 Overseas Surface.

From Swansong Publications 2 Florence Road Harrogate HG2 0LD.
Pauline is well known in history circles and the book is based upon her
Family Tree Magazine articles which have been updated and expanded.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Upper Dales Family History Group will be celebrating their
10th anniversary this year in October with an exhibition
"Those Who Left the Dales" to be shown at Tennants Auction Centre
Leyburn between 2 and 16 October. Our Society has been invited
to provide information and articles for the event and George Buxton M3
handed over items at a recent Group meeting in Hawes.

If you are interested or wish to contribute why not contact
Glenys Marriott of the Group on ☎ 01969 663738 and include
a visit to Leyburn as part of your Metcalfe 30th Anniversary itinerary.

FRIENDS OF SWALEDALE MUSEUM - TALKS 2010

22 September - Highlights of New Research on Local Lead Mining
by Fiona Savine & Peter Roe. 7.30pm Swaledale Museum Reeth.

20 October - Timothy Hutton of Clifton Castle by Jane Hatcher.

17 November - Swaledale Quilts & Quiltmaking by Kate Trusson'
Both 2pm Reeth Methodist Chapel Schoolroom.

Visitors £4 on door.

Check for any changes and further information ☎ 01748 884118.
www.museum.swaledale@btinternet.com

METCALFES IN UPPER WENSLEYDALE 1605/1613

by **D.M.Metcalf (M326)**

(This article first appeared in Mecca News no 33 in April 1991)

When the Yorebridge Grammar School (between Bainbridge and Askrigg) was founded in 1601 a board of 24 trustees was set up. No fewer than 13 of them were named Metcalfe. When 20 persons all from Askrigg or Hawes were brought up before the magistrates in July 1610 for home brewing without a licence 6 of them were named Metcalfe. The more one thinks about it, the more astounding it is that 30 per cent of individuals in a presumably random sample from the extensive parish of Askrigg should have the same surname - let alone 54 per cent of the school trustees.

Turn to the index of almost any published Yorkshire parish register, and you will find upwards of a couple of hundred surnames, occurring with varying frequency. Some will be represented only once or twice, others will be common. But in the nature of the case, the commonest half dozen surnames are unlike-



Grinton

ly on average to take more than a 2 or 3 per cent share each. At Wensley, for example, for the period 1538-1600, Metcalfe is comfortably among the top twenty surnames in the baptismal entries, and takes 1.3 per cent of the total. At Sedbergh, 1606-49, the corresponding figure is 0.26 per cent, illustrating that the westwards drift was limited. At Grinton in Swaledale, 1640-76, the name was particularly common, and amounted to 2.7 per cent. Spot checks of this kind seem to confirm the pattern which can be demonstrated more systematically from the wills of the Richmond Archdeanery (Mecca News No31) - a sporadic spread down Wensleydale and Swaledale, from a focus in the parish of Askrigg, but virtually no sign of Metcalfes at an earlier date further east.

The very heavy concentration of Metcalfes in upper Wensleydale no doubt led to the implausible assertion that in the sixteenth century we were the most numerous family in England. First though, can we be sure of the facts about Wensleydale? By great good fortune, we can. Although parish register transcripts are available for Askrigg only from 1674 (which is rather late for our purposes), and for Hawes from 1695, we have something even

better than the lost registers to enable us to create a complete and reliable view of the population of upper Wensleydale at the beginning of the seventeenth century. There exist two surveys, which happen to be complementary, one describing the manor of Wensleydale or Abbotside (formerly held by the abbey of Jervaulx) north of the River Ure In 1613, and the other the Forest of Wensleydale (as part of the Lordship of Middleham) south of the Ure in 1605. Together they give us a comprehensive list, hamlet by hamlet, of each house and tenancy, with the name of the head of the household. The acreages add up to an appropriate total, and the assessments show us what each holding was worth. The two surveys have been published by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society (Record Series, vol.104).

Thus we can put together a list of some 350 households, located in one or another of 40 named places in upper Wensleydale. These 40 places, mostly consisting of 10 houses or fewer, clustered or scattered, are shown on the accompanying map, with circles proportional in area to the number of households. Not quite all the persons named are the actual tenants. Sir Thomas Metcalfe, for example, is entered as the tenant of 2 houses where he certainly wasn't living. So there seems to have been some sub-letting - indicated in the Abbotside survey by the phrase 'or his assignees'. But as far as one can judge, the list is 95 per cent of actual householders. All told, 103 out of 346 are Metcalfes - just on 30 per cent. So it really was the case that the surname was astoundingly common in upper Wensleydale, compared with any other surname, in any area of comparable size. How can such a situation have arisen?



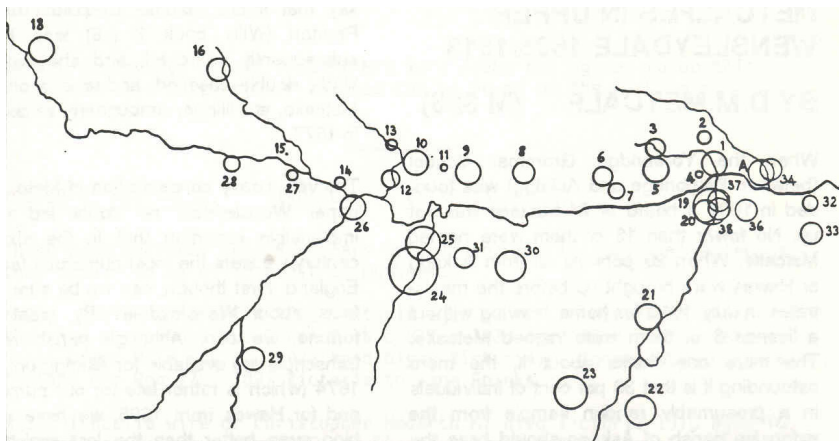
In 1301 there was just one Metcalfe recorded at Bainbridge, among 47 names (2 per cent), and no Metcalfes listed under Nappa or Aysgarth. (In Abbotside, the monks tenants are not named.) From 2 to 30 in about three centuries? Is it statistically possible?

The received explanation that the commonness of the name is due '*simply to the birth, survival, and proliferation of numerous males at early dates*' is entirely hypothetical, and in any case it is only a partial explanation: it may explain the numbers, but it does not explain the concentration.

At Bainbridge, the headquarters for Wensleydale Forest, by ancient

custom a horn was blown at 10 o'clock each winter's evening, so that any travellers who had been overtaken by darkness in the forest might find their way to safety. (The office of hornblower was in effect hereditary for most of the period for which records exist. - Guess the surname.) People were made to pay three farthings for a guide to lead them through the alledgedly track-less wastes between there and Hawes. (See Whaley's Askrigg, 1891.) This ancient forest was the breeding ground par excellence of Metcalfes - the heartland of Metcalfe family history.

At Nappa, on its eastern edge, there was one Metcalfe family: here, there were a hundred. It is almost certain that all our lines of descent go back to upper Wensleydale at some stage - but the diaspora began well before 1600. The meadows and pastures of the dale support only a certain population. Younger sons, with no prospect of inheriting or sharing the family farm, had to leave and seek their livelihood elsewhere.



Map of the 40 localities in the order in which they
are named in the surveys of 1605/13.

Numbers of Metcalfe households/All households.

1, Dale Grange 7/10. 2, Helm 1/3. 3, Skell Gill 0/6. 4, Yorescote 1/1. 6, Brockhill Cote 1/10. 6, Shaw Cote 0/6. 7, Cams House 0/4. 8, Litherskew 0/7. 9, Sedbusk 0/10. 10, Simonstone 4/10. 11, Abbots Close (between 9 and 10?) 0/1. 12, Hardraw, 4/5. 13, Fossdale 0/2. 14, Newhouses (=Pry House?) 1/2. 15, Riggs Close (=Rigg House?) 0/0. 16, Cotterdale 0/9. 17, Stoodale Flat (not mapped) 1/1. 18, Lunds 0/10. A, Askrigg cottages 4/11. 19, Bainbridge Town 8/23. 20, Woodhall (=High Hall?) 5/8. 21, Countersett 6/11. 22, Busk 4/11. 23, Marsett 3/17. 24, Gayle 12/42. 25, Hawes 4/19. 26, Appersett 3/10. 27, Birk Rigg 1/2. 28, Mossdale 2/4. 29, Snaizholme 0/9. 30 and 31, Burtersett and Bainbridge Ings 6/21. 32-5, Worton Barony, Cubeck, Kitlade, Burrisgarris (not mapped) 5/26. 36-40, Brough Hill, Cravenholme (=Bainbridge), Holmehouse (=Bainbridge), Blessings (not mapped)

What do they know of Metcalfes who only Metcalfes know? One key to exploiting the surveys is to notice how other family names behave too. No other surname in 1605/13 was remotely as plentiful. The commonest, Pratt, runs at 14 per cent at Abbotside but only 4 per cent in the upper dale as a whole. Dinsdale, Rowth, Thwaite and Wynn rank next with about 3 per cent each. These are quite high proportions compared with many parishes but not in the same league as 30 per cent.

Surnames remained concentrated in particular hamlets. Metcalfes were not spread evenly through upper Wensleydale. Thus, at Dale Grange 7 out of 10 houses were occupied by families of Metcalfes - Peter, Roger, Abraham, Robert, George, Edmund and James. By contrast, nearby at Camshouse, Litherskew, and Sedbusk there were no Metcalfes among 21 households. At Shaw Cote there were 6 households, all with the name Pratt. Similarly we see heavy concentrations of Thwaites in and around Sedbusk, of Thomsons at Marsett, of Dinsdales at Gayle, or Rowths at Hawes. It is a general pattern, not specifically to do with Metcalfes.

Sons may simply have entered on tenancies as close as possible to their parents. Often, however, it seems likely that holdings had been subdivided; and what we see in the early seventeenth century is the end-product of sub-division over several, perhaps many, generations. In the time of Queen Elizabeth, the tenants of the Manor and Forest of Wensleydale *'claimed to be possessed of their respective messuages, lands and tenements within the said Manor, etc., as customary estates of inheritance'*. In other words they had got into the way of doing more or less as they liked. One can catch a late glimpse of the process in a wonderfully evocative volume publishing Abbotside wills from the late seventeenth century - numerous Metcalfes among them (YAS Record Series, vol.130). In 1577 at Fossdale, Thomas Mte records in his will the division of his property between his son Peter and

Simonstone



Richard: *'And as for all my farming and lease I have already given one half to Peter Mte my son and thereof he is quietly possessed'*, Similarly Michael Mte of Simonstone in 1628 sells to his son-in-law 'a third part of a tenement, various garths

etc., - i.e., he sets him up with a holding, by sub-division. Probably over the centuries, as land was taken in, cleared, or improved, it could support more families, and what had once long before been isolated farmsteads in the 'for-

est' grew to become little hamlets - where shared surnames reflected family ties in the male line.

Occasionally, a locality survived as an undivided holding. Yorescote, for example (no.4 on the map) consisted of a single household of Metcalfes. Their house is described as a mansion, one of only three such in the survey. In 1612, in another source, we read that Medcalfe of Yorescote bore arms, argent a fess vert between three calves sable.

The surveys and the published wills make it abundantly clear that a great majority of families were achieving only a very basic prosperity, with maybe 30 acres, summer grazing on the moors, two or three horses, maybe ten or twenty cattle, four or five score sheep. The general context would seem to be pressure of population, and land hunger, mitigated perhaps by a growing demand from further east of the upper dale's staple products.

The Wensleydale WEA History Class in 1976-77 made a special study based on the 1605 survey, of *'Farming and the landscape in seventeenth century Wensleydale'*, which was published by the North Yorkshire County Record Office in their Journal. It sets out evidence for partible inheritance, and the survival of the open field system. Another NYCRO study which helps to put the 'hundred families' of Metcalfes into perspective was made by the Northallerton WEA History Tutorial Group, and again published in the Journal. It makes clear that the upper dale showed an extremely high rate of population growth from at least 1544/5 to 1672/3.

The proliferation of a particular surname or of a very restricted number of surnames is an upper dale phenomenon (as can be exemplified elsewhere, e.g. Arkengarthdale, or upper Coverdale), taking effect in a period of rapid population growth. The Wensleydale surveys allow us to see (and the map above illustrates) how localized the effect could be.

Among the Medecalf descendants in the seven valleys branching from Hawes, appear well-to-do heads of various branches of the One Family named Christopher, Richard, Henry, Hugh, William, Matthew, Thomas, Adam, Geoffrey, Alexander, Reginald and Edward. Through Richard descended Roger, Leonard, Adam, Bryan, Richard, Simon, Lucas, Matthew, Francis, Thomas, John and Theophilus. They dwelt near where the sources of the Ure could be defended to the north up to and along the dale of the Swale; and became the important branches of Medecalfs of Bear Park, Bedale, Bellerby, Marrick and Northallerton; the Medecalfs who migrated to Ireland, temp. William III; the Medecalfs of Ings House, Hawes, from the branch of which came Lord Metcalfe, Governor-General of India, and of Canada, etc., and the various notable engineers, including Sir Charles Theophilus Metcalfe, the chief consulting engineer of the Cape to Cairo Railway.

From Medecalf by Rev Thomas Metcalfe 1930. Available from the Society.

FAMILY HISTORY NEWS

MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY

For those of you with antecedents in the Manchester area you should be aware that the Central Library has closed for refurbishment and modernisation and will not re-open until 2013.

The Local Studies Library reopened at the end of June in temporary facilities at the City Library in Elliot House, 151 Deansgate. whilst the Archive Service has taken up temporary residence at the Greater Manchester County Record Office (GMCRO) in Marshall Street.

The Library's thousands of books which include first and early editions back to the 13th century will be stored in the Cheshire salt mines at Winsford for the duration of the renovation. Whilst the premises are modernised the card collections will be digitalised as part of the multi-million pound redevelopment of the Town Hall complex of which the Library is a part.

When the work is completed in three years time it is expected to be state of the art and will also house the GMCRO and the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society (which will itself move in with the GMCRO in 2011) providing a one stop shop for family historians.

For further information see
manchester.gov.uk/libraries/arl

Liverpool Record Office

Located in the Central Library in the City Centre LRO is about to undergo a £50 million redevelopment. It is understood that the library and record office will close on 31 May for a period of up to 3 years.

The National Archives

You can search and download another 155,000 merchant seamen's records on The National Archives' DocumentsOnline service.

The records list the recipients of the British War Medal and the Mercantile Marine Medal in the First World War.

If your ancestor was a merchant seaman, look at the handy research signposts - there's one for seamen who served before 1857, another for those who served between 1858 and 1917, and a third signpost for those serving after 1917.

The Battle of Britain. You can find digitised combat reports from the Air Ministry on DocumentsOnline, the digitised record collection.

These fascinating narratives tell the story of the Battle of Britain, describing aerial encounters through the pilots' own words.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

ARCHIVIST COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Thanks to those who have sent data, which we are always delighted to receive. We do still have a number of additions and amendments to enter into our records. This is a most time consuming task, so I must ask for your patience, whilst this is completed.

Our researchers are still ready to assist any members who are anxious to trace their ancestors, so please do not hesitate to send the facts which you have. Even if it is only a little, we may be able to add to it and connect you to other members, who could be the relatives you never knew existed.

This is a service which we offer freely to all members.

To those of you who may feel that your research is complete, I would ask that you share your findings with us. You could well have the key to unlock the closed door, which so many of us have encountered.

Brian Metcalfe (M1554)

AMENDMENTS & BRIEFS FROM EXISTING MEMBERS

M386 Miss Enid N Cox 2 Belmont Mews, Brewerton Street, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HG5 8BA Grd d.o.Francis Edward & Minnie (Rodley) Md m 11 Jan 1909 Pontefract, Yks. Francis E b 20 Sept 1883 s.o. Joseph & Annie (Brown) Md m 10 Sept 1883 St Peters, Oldham Rd, Manchester. Joseph b 1863 Ireland s.o. Francis & 1st wife Eliza (McColgan) Md m 2 May 1858 St Anne, Belfast. Francis & 2nd wife Hannah/Anna (Lanagan) Md m 15 Mar 1868 Manchester Cathedral. Francis b 1836 Dublin s.o. Francis Md (who was an Upholsterer).

M414 Mr Thomas Keith Metcalfe 39 Thornbury Rise, Darlington, Co. Durham DL3 9NE keith.metcalfe5@ntlworld.com S.o. Tom & Mary Ann (Bainbridge) Mte m 1Q 1932 Weardale, Dur. Tom b 19 May 1906 Catterick s.o. Joseph Thomas & Hannah (Abel) Mte m 1901 Bainbridge. Joseph Thomas b 24 Jan 1885 Darlington, Dur s.o. Joseph & Margaret (Spark) Mte m 30 Aug 1873 Darlington. Joseph b 2 Apr 1855 Gainford, Dur s.o. Joseph & Elizabeth (Eales) Mte m 28 Oct 1843 Gainford. Joseph b 2 Aug 1822 Barnard Castle, Dur s.o. Cornelius & Martha (Railton) Mte m 31 Jul 1813 Barnard Castle. Cornelius b 10 Apr 1798 Danby Wiske s.o. Enos & Elizabeth (Nelson) Mte m 11 Jan 1773 Pickhill with Roxby. Enos b 3 Jul 1745 Swalwell,

Dur s.o. Enos & Hannah Mte. Enos bpt 10 Jan 1699 Kirkby on the Moor s.o. Leonard & Margaret (Weatherill) Mte m 9 Feb 1697 Kirkby on the Moor. Leonard b c1666. **Conn M152, M543, M695, M1113, M1697**

M1170 Mr Frank Metcalf 143 Chinnor Road, Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 3LS frank.metcalf@gmx.com S.o. James & Blanche (Standley) Mt m 1936 Haslingden. James b 18 Jul 1911 Haslingden s.o. Walter & Margaret Ellen (Barnes) Mt m 1908 Haslingden. Walter b 24 Mar 1886 Blackburn s.o. John & Emma (Gwilliam) Mte m 17 May 1875 Blackburn. John b 26 Sep 1854 s.o. Thomas & Ann (Riding) Mt m 1852 Blackburn. Thomas b c1829 Preston s.o. John & Mary Mt.

M1738 Miss Norma A Smith 35 Elizabeth Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 3LJ Grd d.o. Alfred & Mary Isabella (Adcock) (Mte) Griffin. The remainder of the brief is correct. Our apologies for spelling Alfred's surname incorrectly in the Birth Brief Booklet.

M1831 Mrs Jean Barnett Rose Cottage, 16 Garden Street, Laura, South Australia 5480, Australia. rojean1@bigpond.com Jean is grand-dau of Ethel Margaret Mte b 1882 Shaw, Wilts. d/o Cuthbert Brown & Isabella (Ewart) Mte m 16 Aug 1863 South Shields, Dur. Cuthbert B b 19 Mar 1845 bpt 11 May 1845 Thornton Steward Yks. s/o Thomas & Ann (Dodsworth) Mte m c1842. Thomas bpt 20 May 1821 Thornton Steward s/o Thomas & Mary (Brown) Mte m 01 June 1812 Finghall. Thomas bpt 15 Mar 1789 Bedale s/o Anthony & Jane (Collinson) Mte m 13 Sep 1786 Bedale. Anthony bpt 19 Jul 1766 Thornton Watlass s/o Anthony & Margaret (Mte*) Mte m 05 Mar 1764 Thornton Watlass. Anthony bpt 08 Jun 1740 Thornton Watlass s/o Stephen & Ellen (Moody) Mte m 19 Sep 1734 Thornton Watlass. Stephen b c1715 Rookwith. **Conn M123 et al**

*Margaret Mte bpt 23 Sep 1739 Thornton Watlass d/o Thomas & Ann (Meek) Mte m 23 Nov 1728 Thornton Watlass. Thomas bpt 04 Mar 1704 Thornton Watlass s/o Elias Mte b c1657. Elias s/o James Mte. James s/o Roger & Anne (?) Mte. **Conn M127 et al**

M1849 Phyllis Altrogge & her sister Mrs Iris Altrogge Soule 1541 Hunting Avenue, McLean, VA, V.A. 22102 USA altroggepd@cox.net Grd dtrs of Charles Henry & Anna Florence Martha (nee Metcalfe) Dean m 1890 Missouri, USA. Anna Florence Martha b 5 Jul 1869 Missouri, USA d.o. John & Mary (Phillips) Mte m 5 Mar 1853 Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Hungerford, Berks. John bpt 23 Dec 1827 Hardrow, Yks s.o. Richard & Jane (Yoeman) Mte m 23 Nov 1826 Aysgarth. Richard bpt 6 May 1804 Kirkby Stephen s.o. Richard & Sybil (Whitfield) Mte m 20 Mar 1793 Kirkby Stephen. Richard bpt 17 Jan 1773 Askrigg s.o. John Mte of Low Coat. **Conn M144 et al**

M1852 Dr Dennis Young 3 St Matthews Court, Feltham Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 2ED.dennisyoung.young@googlemail.com Great grandson of William Francis & Alice (Nelson) Mills m 19 Feb 1898 Ashington NBL. Alice b 1879 Harton, Co Durham d/o George & Jane (Mt) Nelson m 17 Sep 1864 Earsdon NBL. Jane b 25 May 1844 Cramlington NBL d/o Andrew & Hannah (Reed/Reid) Mt m (Before 1841). Andrew bpt 15 Apl 1813 at Spittal United Presbyterian Ch. NBL s/o Thomas & Jane (?Davison mge sought) Metcalf although surname in register is given as Metcaugh. Thomas bpt 28 Sep 1788 Norham s/o Joseph Midcalf. Other sons of Joseph are William 1780 and George 1782.

Thomas and Jane are known to have had two sons baptised at Spital, namely Joseph 1810 and Andrew 1813 and a third son Thomas bc1815 Norham. The family lived at Shoreswood, Norham which was in Northumberland, an exclave of Durham until 1844 when jurisdiction was transferred to Northumberland.

NEW MEMBERS WITH OR AWAITING BIRTH BRIEFS

M1854 Mr Patrick Metcalfe 26 Chestnut Grove, New Earswick, York, North Yorkshire YO32 4BU pandj26@talktalk.net

M1855 Mrs Pauline Clapham Brearley Flat 1, Pasture Court, 22 Pasture Lane, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS7 4QN pcbrearley@gmail.com

M1856 Mr Joshua Metcalfe 1857 Tatum Street, Falcon Heights, MN 55113, USA josh@clayjars.com

M1857 Mrs Gail Newbury

M1858 Mr Michael Tippey S.o. William Henry & Agnes Annie (Mte) Tippey m 21 May 1934 Harrogate. Annie b 9 Aug 1902 Harrogate d. o. Joseph William & Sarah Jane (Wetherill) Mte m 1885 Knaresborough. Joseph b 8 April 1864 Harrogate s.o. Joseph & Margaret (Proctor) Mte m 6 July 1856 Ripon. Joseph b c1838 Ripon s.o. Joseph & Ann (Bell) Mte m 30 Dec 1834 Kirby Wiske. Joseph bpt 28 Oct 1798 Sand Hutton s.o. Joseph & Alice (Smithson) Mte m 7 April 1794 Stokesley. Joseph bpt 30 Dec 1759 Sand Hutton s.o. John & Frances (Scaife) Mt m 29 Nov 1757 Sand Hutton. John bpt 15 Jul 1729 Thirsk s.o. William & Jane (Knott) Mt m 14 Nov 1723 Thirsk. William bpt 6 May 1696 Thirsk s.o. John Mte of Thirsk. **Conn. M146, M153, M723, M763**

DEADLINE for the December Mecca News is 20 October 2010

Articles comments or snippets to the Editor.

M1859 Mrs Brenda Mallinson Rose Dale, Willitoft, Goole, East Yorkshire DN14 7NX brenda.mallinson@btopenworld.com Grd d.o. John & Annie (Mte) Cain m 4 April 1904 Bradford . Annie b c1875 d.o. John & Jane (Grayson) Mt. John bpt 11 Oct 1840 Thirsk s.o. William Grassam & Sarah (Cartwright) Mte m 9 Dec 1839 Pickhill with Roxby. William Grassam b c 1815 s.o. John & Elizabeth (Grassam) Mte m 20 Sept 1802 Pickhill

M1860 Mr Matthew Metcalfe 5728 Brookstone Walk, Acworth, Georgia 30101, USA matthewmetcalfe@gmail.com

M1861 Mr Reginald V. Metcalf Mullana, 48L Obley Road, Dubbo, NSW 2830. Australia. Reginald s/o Reginald Victor Mt b c1916 NSW s/o Frederick Leslie G. & Maude (Putland) Mt m 26 Apl 1911 NSW. Frederick b 12 Dec 1890 Junee NSW s/o Henry & Eliza Ann (Boardman) Mt m 17 Mar 1868 Cobbity NSW. Henry b 31 May 1845 Camden NSW s/o George & Ann (Peters) Mt m 02 Apl 1841 Presbyterian Meeting House, Battle, Ssx, England. George b 04 Jan 1819 Battle Ssx s/o George & Elizabeth (?) Mt.

Conn M682. M725. M736. M1070. M1109. M1177.

M1862 Mrs Phillippa Godfrey 9 Brookview Drive, Keyworth, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire NG12 5JN dagodfrey@ntlworld.com Grd d.o. James & Jane (Metcalf) Edwards. Jane b 4Q 1879 Birkenhead d.o. Townley George & Jane (Eden) Md m 2Q 1872 Birkenhead. Townley George bpt 18 Apl 1831 St. Peter, Liverpool s.o. Townley & Jane (?) Md. Townley bpt 23 Nov 1803 St. Nicholas, Liverpool s.o. Townley & Margaret (Hodson/Hodgson) Md. Townley bpt 16 Aug 1872 St. Peter, Liverpool s.o. Cuthbert & Jane (Slater) Md m 8 Sept 1771 Liverpool. Cuthbert a watch engraver.

Conn M233, M1442, M1448

M1863 Mrs Diane Atkins 20 Langleeford Way, Ingleby Barwick, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland TS17 0FB rob@snicta72.freemove.co.uk

M1864 Mrs Marilyn Cross 1 Middleton Close, Winyates East, Redditch, Warwickshire B98 0LX marilync60@hotmail.co.uk

We regret to inform members of the death of

Malcolm S. Metcalfe XM530

We extend our condolences to family and friends

FFHS News

NATIONAL BURIAL INDEX (NBI) third Edition is expected to be even more popular than earlier editions. Coverage is incomplete, but over 18.4 million records are included in this edition, covering 1538-2008. The NBI also incorporates those records previously published of which many have since been checked and corrected. Millions of these records will not be found on any website.

The National Burial Index (NBI) is a database of entries recorded in English and Welsh burials registers - parish, nonconformist, Roman Catholic, Quaker and cemetery.

Information for each individual includes: Forename(s) and surname date of burial age (where given, generally post-1813) details of place where the event was recorded; pre-1832 county definitions are used the recording society, group or individual

No monumental inscriptions or death registrations are included.

The full price is £30 if purchased as a completely 'new' product i.e. for first time buyers. An upgrade price is available for purchasers of the 2nd Edition. The special price for this upgrade is £15. It can ONLY be bought by returning Disk 1 of the original 2nd edition set.

Full details at www.ffhs.org.uk

Metcalf History of the Clan

Available from www.metcalf.org.uk

Lovefeast Loaf

Ingredients,

1 stone flour, 6lbs Currants, 5lbs Sugar, 4lbs Butter or Lard,
6 pints new Milk, 1lb Mixed Peel, 4 Nutmegs, 4oz Yeast,
10/12 Eggs, Salt, 4oz Baking Powder.

Melt the butter in a pan with milk mix in ingredients, leave overnight,
place the dough in tins and let rise for one hour.

Bake in a moderate oven.

Cost (1914): Flour 2/6, Currants 2/6, Sugar 1/-, Butter 3/-, Milk 8d,
Peel 1/-, Nutmegs 4d, Yeast 3d, Eggs 2/-, Baking Powder 6d;
Total 13/9d (69p).

The loaf was fed to the congregation at the celebration of the
Midsummer or the Shortest Day Festivals at

Gunnerside Methodist Church Swaledale from the 1850's.

From Gunnerside Chapel and Gunnerside Folk

by Margaret Batty BA, BD 1967

Provided by **George Buxton M3**

Magazines, Newsletters & Newspapers

Gardeners seeking local council owned allotments are finding they can wait up to 40 years for the opportunity! **The East Anglian Times** of 2 December 2009 reported that local residents fed up of their lack of allotment space had formed the Woodbridge Growers with a view to securing a two acre site on which to place their own allotments. The Chairman of the Group was **Jonathan Metcalf**.

The Northern Echo carried an short article showing the copper plate writing of a **Thomas Metcalfe** of Ivelet Swaledale. The exercise book was dated 25 October 1828 and is owned by Thomas's descendant Bill Alderson. Within its pages was a little poem -

*Nature regardful of the babbling race,
Planted no hair upon woman's face.
Not Packwood's razors though the best,
Could shave a chin that never is at rest.*

Supplied by **Jennifer Priestley M991**

Householders needing help with home care in the south Cheshire area could look no further than *Done n Dusted* a cleaning/gardening and decorating business run since 1990 by **Louise Metcalfe**. Advertisement in the **Crewe Guardian** 18 March 2010. Supplied by **Paul Thomas**.

Contributor to the **Pleasure of Bordeaux** magazine - **Charles Metcalfe** chairman of the international wine challenge competition and well known wine critic. Supplied by **CS Metcalfe M305**.

Dedication of a seat at Sycamore Hall Bainbridge Wensleydale in memory of **Catherine Metcalfe** on 2 May 2010. From **The Upper Wensleydale Newsletter** Issue 158 May 2010.

A classic car buff recently found a 1951 Mark VI Bentley in a shed in the Isle of Man. The car had been registered in England before travelling to Scotland and then the Isle of Man where it languished from the mid 1980's until its recent discovery. Previously the car retriever **David Metcalfe** had found 13 Bentleys in a barn near Bath! *Classic Car Mart June 2010*. Supplied by **CS Metcalfe M305**.

While working at the pug mill at Missen's brickyard the beam which the horses were attached caught his head and crushed it against the tub in which he was looking and he fell down dead. Inquest at Gt Thurlow of **George Medcalf** age 45. 6 August 1856. Bury & Norwich Post Newspaper Archive.

Mrs Medcalfe living at Hermitage Farm Care was delivered of three boys all born alive but all have since died. 15 November 1862 Bury (St Edmund) Free Press Newspaper Archive. (*The GRO shows 3 male deaths in Sudbury in quarter 4 1862 but no reference to the Medcalfes at Hermitage Farm has yet been found.*) Both items supplied by **Edwin Metcalf M980**.

EARLY AMERICAN MECCAS

From Tracy Hancock M1330.

Descendant of Asa Metcalf, b. ca 1776, Fauquier Co., VA.

16 Feb 1623/4. Muster of the inhabitants of Virginia Settlements. George MEDCALFE his muster. **George MEDCALFE** aged 46, **Sara MEDCALFE** aged 30 in the Hopewell 1624. **Joane** a Child.

2 Jan 1634. **James METCALF** age 22 was a passenger of the Bonaventure which departed London. (*The Original Lists of Persons of Quality; Emigrants; Religious Exiles; Political Rebels; Serving Men Sold for a Term of Years; Apprentices; Children Stolen; Maidens Pressed; and Others Who Went from Great Britain to the American Plantations 1600-1700. From Mss. Preserved in the State Paper Department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, England. Edited by John Camden Hotten, otherwise known as "Hotten's List"; Chatto and Windus, Publishers, London, England, 1874. Also reprinted by G.A. Baker & Co., Inc., New York, 1931*)

1634. **John MEDCALFE**, Gentleman is listed as arriving in St. Mary's Maryland on the Ark. (*History of St. Mary's County, Maryland by Regina Combs Hammett, p.15*) (http://www.istg.rootsweb.com/v2/1600v2/ark_dove16340325.html)

1635. "Amongst the settlers which could be considered a kinsman of the surname METCALF, or a variable spelling of that family name was **Christopher and James METCALF** who settled in Virginia in 1635, they were descended from a wealthy cloth merchant of Southwark in Surrey, England." (*Web site of Hall of Names International, Inc., www.infokey.com, The Ancient History of the Distinguished Surname Metcalf*)

3 April 1635. Passengers embarked in the Falcon of London, [Capt.] Mr. Thomas Irish, bound (from London) to Barbados: ... **Thomas METCALFE** [age] 20,... (*The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1776...*)

28 May 1635. The Speedwell departed London for Virginia. John Cappell, Master. 59 passengers, including **Christopher METCALF**, age 19 [*A Richard Brown is found with John Metcalfe: 3 July 1638. William LEWIS, John MEDCALFC, and Richard BROWNE [Browne], acknowledge themselves to owe vnto the Lord Proprietarie 3000. wt of tobacco, to be paid vnto the said Lo: Proprietary, or his heires, or officers on the tenth of November next, in case the said william LEWIS shall offend the peace of this colony or of the inhabitants thereof by iniurious & vnnecessary arguments or disputations in matter of religion; or shall vse any ignominious words or speeches touching the books or ministers authorised by the State of England. Recogn coram me signed; william LEWIS, John LEWGER Secretary, John MEDCALFE, Richard Browne* (*Archives of Maryland Online, Judicial and Testamentary Business of the Provincial Court, 1637-1650, Volume 4, Page 38.*)]

1637. **Henry MEDCALFE** transported by John WILKINS, New Norfolk Co., VA. (*Early Virginia Immigrants, by George Cabell Greer, Gen. Pub. Co., 1960, p. 223*).

LISTEN TO THE BAND

Music has been a popular pastime since before Greek shepherds entertained their flocks of sheep with pan pipes. In the Middle Ages every opportunity was taken to relieve the tedium and hard work of life with music featuring high in the list of leisure entertainment at fairs, inns, churches, theatres and gatherings of family and friends. There is still evidence of music being central to Dales inhabitants lives if you look in old churches - like the church at Wensley which still has the musicians balcony dating from the 17th century - or theatres with their orchestra pits like the one at Richmond.

The music of that time took many forms but the majority of the popular tunes probably centred around the songs and hymns of the nonconformist religious groups and local folk songs. Instruments were relatively simple and easy to carry - from flutes, pipes, fiddles to horns, and bugles. However after the 1750's things changed. The Industrial Revolution which had its start in the British Isles saw more sophisticated instruments being made as a result of the "new" manufacturing processes resulting in better musical reproduction and a wider range of instruments. At the great Exhibition of 1851 Adolphe Sax, showed the capabilities of his saxhorn instruments which further encouraged the spread of brass bands. This led to the more recognisable bands we see today which include cornet, flugelhorn, tenor & baritone horns, euphonium, tuba and of course the (for some reason comical) trombone.

By the early 1800's the manufacture of more technical and larger instruments made of brass led to the formation of the first recorded non-military brass band in 1809 - the Sta-lybridge Old Band - and throughout the early 19th century bands were being formed across the



Muker Agricultural Show Ground where the local Brass Bands performed. c1908. Picture courtesy of George Buxton M3

country. The Dales were no exception virtually every village and town worthy of the name had by the 1850's its own band. It is recorded that Swaledale had bands in Keld, Muker, Low Row, Gunnerside, Arkengarthdale and Reeth whilst Wensleydale had bands in the Upper Dale in Hawes, Burtersett, Bainbridge, Hardrow, Sedbusk, Askrigg and Leyburn and in the Lower Dale

at West Witton and Ripon. Bands were also formed in Wharfedale at Kettlewell, Kilnsey and Grassington also further down the dale at Ilkley and Otley. Records are not comprehensive by any means and there were likely to have been some in other villages and townships.

From survived records an idea of the spread of band playing in the Dales and Mecca involvement can be gained. A Leyburn band is mentioned as playing on Leyburn Shawl (to the north west of the village) in 1841 whilst at Ripon in November 1860 a volunteer band was formed under the baton of a Sergeant Beckwith using instruments previously used by the 'City Band'. In the Wensleydale and Swaledale Almanack of 1917 the Keld band was listed as being led by Cooper Metcalfe with George Metcalfe being the conductor of the Hawes Silver Band in the 1920's. The Hawes band dates from the 1860's.

On the website www.thedales.org.uk is a report of the Wensleydale Bainbridge Brass Band's involvement in the 1911 Coronation celebrations of George the V at Middleham Castle:- *The Bainbridge Hornblower of the time Mr. Jack (Jammy) Metcalfe aged 11 years remembers that they played all afternoon and then had to play for a dance in the evening at the castle. After the dance they travelled by waggonette to Leyburn Railway station arriving at 4.30 am. They had to wait over an hour for the train back to Askrigg. To make the walk to Bainbridge seem easier they decided to march back playing their instruments. They arrived in Bainbridge at 6.00am and proceeded through the village still playing their instruments waking everyone up who was within earshot of the band. After a good breakfast the band played for the rest of the day at Bainbridge for their Coronation celebrations.*

As country inhabitants left for the mines and factories they took with them their musical skills which saw many more bands being formed in the fast growing towns encouraged by employers seeking to distract their workers from the poor living and working conditions they encountered. By the end of the 19th century the rise of the Salvation Army saw a further expansion of the brass band some using silver instruments. The period before the First World War possibly saw the peak of band numbers with an estimated 20000 players attached to hundreds of bands across the nation.

WWI saw band members along with many others volunteering then later being drafted into the armed services. The Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion Band was primarily made up of players from Fletton Victoria Prize Band (originally on the outskirts of Peterborough but in Huntingdonshire until 1972 when it was absorbed into Cambridgeshire. These messengers (on their bikes) also operated as stretcher bearers. One of their number in the 1st Battalion's Band in February 1915 was a Trooper Metcalfe.

Many of their players failed to return after the battles in France, Belgium and the Middle East but the return from the trenches saw many of the com-



Hardraw Force

petitions suspended for the duration of the conflict re-introduced and the genre went through a resurgence which was again interrupted by the conflicts of the Second World War.

One of the more famous Dales locations associated with brass band playing and competitions is the *Hardrow Scaur* behind the Green Dragon pub currently owned by our member D Mark Thompson who also owns Nappa Hall. Competitions are recorded from the early 1880's when a JL and a WL Metcalfe were part of the organising committee with competitors and visitors from all over the North of England. The event usually in late June continued until the catastrophic storm in 1899 severely damaged

the venue then again briefly after the First World War.

(The 2010 event takes place on Sunday 12 September Hardraw Scar Brass Band Festival, Green Dragon Inn, Hardraw, 10am-5pm, 01969 667392)

The social changes of the 1950's did not materially affect the enthusiasm for brass bands but the bands of the 1960's and 70's are remembered more synonymously with mining communities and large industrial concerns such as Grimethorpe Colliery or Fodens. The demise of manufacturing in the 1980's and 1990's saw many of the bands cease activities as the industries on which they were based disappeared and financial support removed. However communities whilst losing their industrial roots were reluctant to let go of their social heritage and many bands evolved or were revived so that now there are a healthy but smaller number in existence.

An sign of the continuing nature of brass bands was to be seen at the 2010 Whit Friday Band competition based in the Oldham & Saddleworth area of Lancashire/Greater Manchester (which was part of Yorkshire until the 1972 county boundary changes!). Some 135 bands took part in the various individual village competitions that go to make up the event. Well known bands such as Brighouse and Rastrick, Fairey, Hepworth, Fodens, Hammonds Saltaire (previously Hammonds Sauce), together with locally well known bands from Marsden, Rothwell Temperance, Elland, Cheshire Constabulary and the original Stalybridge Old Band took part. Also present were entrants from Switzerland and Holland.

The event had its roots in the 1880's when a report in the local newspaper the Stalybridge Reporter said *"That attempt which was made to get up an impromptu band contest on Whit Friday does not appear to have been a great success. The difficulties arose from the arrangement or want of arrangement. There had been no time to prepare a proper programme of the order in which the bands should play.... Still the notion is a good one, and with a little more care, might be made a really great success next year."*

A hundred and thirty years on it looks as if the organisers might have achieved that sentiment!



**Reeth Band
Performing on the
Village Green 1990**

Brass bands have mirrored the industrial and social development of the UK over the last 200 years from the rise of manufacturing to the post manufacturing era of the 21st century. Members of the Clan have taken part in brass bands from its earliest days and continue to do so. A recent newsletter from Fulham Brass (London) mentions one of their members - Emma Metcalfe (tenor horn) whilst one of the most successful brass bands in Canada is the Hanaford Street Silver Band whose conductor is Curtis Metcalf and there are undoubtedly even more Meccas currently in bands bringing entertainment and enjoyment. Long may it continue.

Records for village bands are not readily available as they may be still in private hands if they have not been destroyed. Have you any details of Metcalfe's performing in Dales bands?

Sources include Wikipedia; www.harddrawforce.com; www.whitfriday.brassbands.saddleworth.org/intro.html; www.yhbba.org.uk/harddraw7.htm; www.wensleydale.org/events/



Canterbury Marriage Licenses were issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury in place of banns and were valid throughout England.

Between 1694 and 1850 up to 3% of all marriages in England were by this arrangement.

21 December 1754 **And. Metcalf** of Staplehurst (Kent), Ba, 22 and Mary Good of Cranbrook, 20 at Cranbrook. Father Phil. Good, Weaver.

SPACE....

A NASA Discovery space shuttle took off on 5 April 2010 on a mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in orbit above the Earth. Its task to re-supply the station with much needed hardware, supplies and equipment. The latter included a tank of ammonia coolant, new crew sleeping quarters and experiment racks weighing in total some 27000 pounds. It took back 6000 pounds of replaced hardware and trash.

The flight lasted fifteen days returning on 20 April. There were seven crew members of which four were women including mission specialist **Dorothy M Metcalf-Lindenburger**.



Dorothy (or Dottie) was born in 1975 in Colorado Springs Colorado and considers her home Fort Collins.



Dottie was the flight engineer responsible for ascent and re-entry operations during the journey and was the robotic arm operator for the unloading and positioning of the heavy hardware items at the ISS.

Information supplied by **Dorothy M Leone M1250**.
Further details concerning the Discovery flight STS-131
can be found at www.nasa.gov.
Images courtesy of NASA.

Editor's Note: The Colorado Metcalf's are known to the membership through articles in Mecca News issues 80, 84 & 86 and it would appear that Dottie is one of the Colorado Clan with links back to Burtersett in Wensleydale.

EDNA VALERIE GREETHAM METCALFE

An obituary appeared in the Wellington New Zealand Dominion Post of 12 September 2009 for Edna (who was known as Ted) under the title "The Adventurous Nurse". The article indicated that Ted (how she got the nickname is not stated) was born New Plymouth in 1910 to parents (not named) who had come from New South Wales, Australia to the gold fields of Coromandel before becoming farmers.

Ted started her training as a nurse when about seventeen in the Wellington Hospital. Armed with her nursing credentials she went to Europe spending time in the UK, Switzerland and the French Riviera where one of her patients was Henri Matisse. In her five years in Western Europe she also visited the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Rejected by the New Zealand forces she went to Tonga to nurse returning after WWII to nurse in NZ and then the USA. In the early 1950's she joined the World Health Organisation which saw her working in Malaysia - at the time of the troubles, and Africa including the Congo, Chad, Cameroon, and Egypt. She even found time to write a nursing guide.

Retiring in 1974 she led an active life which included travelling but in poor health she spent the last decade of her life in a nursing home.

Supplied by **Rodney & Velma Metcalfe M706.**

The article gives more details of this amazing woman and her busy life but in spite of the information we don't have any other details of her or her family in our database. Anyone know who they were and why she was called Ted? Editor

END WITH A SMILE!

From **Lesley Longworth M68.**

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
 - The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
 - Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
 - Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
 - Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
 - Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
 - Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
 - A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall.
- Music will follow.